

National Tribune.

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

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ON ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Memorial Day at the National Cemetery.

THE GREAT REPUBLIC.

Its Peril Caused the Uprising of the People.

THE RESTORED UNION.

A Nation Worth Fighting and Dying For.

[Quoted by Major W. H. Lambert.]

To commemorate the great deliverance which the Lord wrought for His chosen people, He ordained a memorial to be observed by all their generations forever.

Let the memorial should deteriorate into a meaningless form, He commanded the father to show the son, saying, "This is done because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt."

We are to-day assembled to commemorate our Nation's dead, and though neither antiquity nor divine command hallow our ceremonial, surely our sons ask, "what mean ye by this service?" We may say this is done because the strong hand of the Lord wrought for our people a mighty deliverance.

The consequences of the war of the rebellion so far exceeded the purposes and the hopes which we cherished at its outbreak that in these later years we are disposed to consider its results as the object for which the war was undertaken.

THE OCCASION OF THE WAR.

The remote causes of the war were doubtless beyond the control of the nation which witnessed the strife. Whatever these remote causes may have been, whether the diverse climatic influences prevalent in the North and the South, or the opposing characteristics of the early settlers of the two sections, or the antagonistic views relative to the rights of the States, or more directly the conflicting systems of free and slave labor, the occasion of the war was the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency, and the immediate cause was the determination of our people, irrespective of party, to maintain the union of the States.

The election of a President by a party whose main principle was opposition to the encroachments of slavery, and whose success indicated the lessening of the over-mastering influence which had hitherto been exerted by the slaveholding States, was rendered possible by the increasing antagonism to slavery itself. But whilst that party was united in that all its members were opposed to slavery, and were agreed in resistance to the extension of that institution into new territory, they differed widely in their opinions concerning other methods of preventing its growth. There were those in the Republican party who favored warring upon slavery, regardless of constitutional restriction, but the vast majority of its members, whilst believing slavery to be a great evil, whose suppression was eminently desirable, recognized the provisions which forbade any interference with it within the limits of States already existing, and hoped for nothing more than the prevention of its spread into States yet to be formed.

THE NORTH ANXIOUS TO CONCILIAE.

Believing freedom to be national and slavery sectional, the Republican party had yet neither desire nor intention to violate, in the slightest degree, the rights of the slaveholding States. Innocent of all purpose to infringe the rights, whether inherent or constitutional, of any of the States, the people of the North were loth to believe that a political victory, won in strict accord with the Constitution and laws of the land, was to form a pretext to justify withdrawal from the Union, and were slow to realize that the Nation was on the verge either of dissolution or of civil war.

As doubt resolved into fear, and fear strengthened into certainty, as the terrible reality was apprehended, the anxiety of the North to prevent the threatened calamity was manifested by proposals bordering upon humiliation. So earnest was our purpose to avoid strife that we were willing to yield anything, save the fundamental principles which had triumphed in the recent election. Propositions of the most liberal character, declarations to maintain the Constitution inviolate, guarantees that there should be no interference with slavery within the States, were alike rejected by the South as insufficient, and it was evident that naught save our abject submission would satisfy the imperious demands of the leaders who had determined upon the disruption of the Union.

Mid darkness of darkness, the Nation was drifting to war or to death.

DOUBT DEFILED BY THE SHOT OR SUMMER.

When the shock could no longer be averted, and the impending storm burst upon the land, the call to arms was not an elaborate argument upon the unconstitutionality of secession, nor a philosophical dissertation concerning State rights, nor even an indignant denunciation of slavery, but an appeal to stand by the flag.

Many of us believed that Northern extremists were alike blamable with those of the South for the fearful peril which threatened the land; many of us hoped against hope for a peaceful solution of our difficulties; we differed greatly respecting the policy to be pursued towards the disloyal States; but the shot on Sumter declared speculation as to the measure of responsibility to be useless, proved the facility of our hopes of peace, banished political differences, and made ready a people to answer the Government's call.

We stand not for questions, we waited not to consider the consequences of war; the authority of the Nation had been defied, its flag had been insulted, and to uphold the honor of that flag, to enforce the authority of the Nation, was an all-sufficient purpose, and for that we entered the war.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION.

Our people sprang to arms, not for conquest, not to subvert the Constitution, not to propagate the principles of party, not to accomplish moral reform, not to abolish slavery, that curse of the land, nor to disgrace the century—but to preserve the Republic.

Doubtless there were many in our ranks who knew that to assert national authority was to cripple slavery; many who entered the service as upon a crusade for freedom, whose final issue must be the abolition of slavery; many who desired the war to cease only when that result had been attained; but the purpose which animated our armies and which had called them into being was the maintenance of the Union and the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws.

Had the political organization whose principles were enunciated in these words succeeded in the recent election, it could not have adhered more closely to these principles than did the new Administration.

To save the Union was the single purpose of the people, the controlling policy of the Government.

SLAVERY IDENTIFIED WITH TREASON.

But, in the Providence of God, another issue than the simple maintenance of the Union was projected into the war, and slavery, because identified with treason, its principle and its stay, was doomed to stand or fall as our arms were defeated or victorious.

Some of our statesmen had prophesied, what ourselves have learned in the hard school of war—the perpetuity of the Union could be secured only through freedom to the slave.

Honest doubts and misgivings prompted some of our number to turn back, but the great host in arms to preserve the Nation felt that the cause was not less worthy because freedom was involved in the victory.

The war ended with every purpose for which it was waged accomplished; no organized opposition to the Government existed on the face of the continent; the flag waved in triumph over every State of the Union, and four millions of slaves were freed men.

All that the army had undertaken it had done; its work was finished, and the exultant legions were summoned to the capital only that in grand review they might signalize the victory they were passed into history. None feared that the troops who in war had maintained the national authority would, in the pride of their power, usurp that authority in peace. Our citizen soldiers, without thought of other purpose, and simply as a matter of course, returned to the homes whence they came.

THE CAUSE WORTHY OF THE COST.

History again repeated itself, and as peacefully as the army of the Revolution had disbanded when its work was done, so melted away the mightier army which had crushed the rebellion.

Important events have often sprung from apparently insignificant causes, great historic changes have often had seemingly inadequate origin, but the means through which these momentous results were achieved were commensurate. Our freedom was bought with an adequate price. How stupendous were the means employed, and how great the sacrifice! The day throughout the land, by their very numbers, attested that how tremendous was the cost, these graves can only suggest.

So inestimable a victory demanded an infinite sacrifice.

The triumph was not alone for our country or for our generation, but for all lands and for all time. The struggle was not merely to determine the existence of this "Nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men were created equal," but whether "any nation so conceived and dedicated could long endure." In this Nation the experiment of self-government had been tried under exceptionally favorable conditions; had it failed, "government by the people" might well have perished from the earth.

The task which the close of the war imposed upon the Government was of extraordinary difficulty, and was made all the harder because the great President had been stricken to death, and the administration devolved upon one whose misfortune it was to be elected the distrust of the majority of the people who had sustained the war and to become involved in angry controversy with a co-ordinate branch of the Government.

THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION.

Complete as were the achievements of our arms, the opinions of the defeated people were not changed—nor was it to be expected that men, who had upheld their cause so bravely and at such immense cost as did they would acknowledge themselves in error because they had been defeated. Assuredly we should not have doubted the righteousness of our cause, even though it had ended in disaster.

Remembering that during the trying years of reconstruction—years when of all others harmony of purpose was essential to the welfare of the Nation—the President and Congress differed radically in their plans for restoring the lately rebellious States to their normal position in the Union, and that this difference exerted a baleful influence throughout the North and encouraged the leaders of the rebellion to hope that through diversity of opinion in the North they might to some degree change, if not indeed reverse, some of the issues of the war; remembering that the men charged with authority in the South, representatives of the Government so lately an enemy, were not always competent to the discharge of their delicate trust—it is not astonishing that outrage and wrong characterized the transitional period which followed the war.

Remembering also that the war had resulted not only in the defeat of the Southern armies, but in the utter destruction of the institution for whose protection the war had been undertaken, and that it had revolutionized the social system, it is not surprising that the process of accommodation to the changed circumstances was slow. Evils, the growth of centuries are not easily overcome, it is, therefore, not wonderful that the Southern people have been slow to adapt themselves to the radical changes which followed their defeat. Nor is it strange that the master frets and chafes under an order of society in which his former slave is politically his peer.

The wounds inflicted by a contest of such magnitude and bitterness were naturally slow to heal.

THE RESTORED UNION.

But time, supplementing the war, has also wrought great change, and though lawlessness and wrong may not yet have entirely ceased; though the weak may not yet be wholly freed from oppression, the Southern States, secure in the possession of their constitutional rights,

sharing the prosperity of the country they strove to destroy, are at peace, and the greater part of their citizens honestly acquiescent in the result of the war.

Though during the war, despite many discouragements, we never lost faith in our ability to defeat the Confederate armies and to enforce obedience to law, we yet feared that to maintain the national authority in the South would require the constant presence of the national armies. And as if to confirm our fears the rebel leaders persistently declared that we might overrun and desolate their territory—we could never restore the seceding States to their former relation; whilst citizens of foreign lands, either sympathizing with the Confederacy or calmly indifferent to the issue of the great contest, assumed the dissolution of the Federal Union to have been already consummated, asserting that a voluntary compact once broken could not be restored by force of arms.

We have lived to behold the groundlessness of our fears, the practical retraction of rebel declaration, and the gratuitousness of foreign assumption. For whatever of excuse there may have been for fear, however honest and sincere the declaration, however theoretically correct the assumption, the facts disprove them all. To-day twenty-seven thousand men constitute the army of the United States; of these, five hundred garrison the forts and arsenals of the South, to repress which the Government had called into service two millions of men.

The Federal Union was indeed maintained by force of arms, but it exists to-day, not upheld by the bayonets of an army, but by the will of a united people.

The stability of our governmental system had not only been tried in battle, but in peace was to be subjected to tests scarcely less severe than those of war. Battle ordeal and peaceful trial alike proved the staying powers of the Republic.

LOYALTY OF THE UNITED PEOPLE.

The ship of State had not weathered the terrible storm only to founder in smoother waters 'neath lesser gales.

The Nation which had so successfully endured the great war was to withstand the reaction which followed cessation of hostilities, when party ties, which had weakened and sundered under stress of the common peril, renewed their strength; when the people who had united against a common foe separated upon questions of policy whose opinions might differ without disloyalty to the Government; and when party fealty resumed its sway and political strife regained the importance of which it had been so long deprived by war.

At the height of political contention and by reason of it the Nation was brought to face an emergency of such character that in any land and at any time it would have excited the gravest apprehensions, but which was indeed appalling in our land, so recently come forth from a terrible civil war, with a Legislature whose membership included many who in that war had been arrayed against the Nation. Well might thoughtful men tremble for the safety of a Government so tried and tested.

But to the honor of our people the momentous question was submitted to arbitrators chosen from among our own countrymen, and their decision was obeyed, though at least a moiety of our citizens believed it unjust. And the President whose election was questioned was held to have a perfect title, because it was awarded him by a lawfully appointed tribunal, and he was obeyed as lawfully appointed and South as though he had entered his high office upon a doubtful popular majority.

And when for the second time in our history and in our own generation an assassin struck down the Chief Magistrate, a condition of affairs existed, fraught with possibilities more dangerous than occurrences which had overturned more than one European government.

The anxieties and sorrows of those months when a Nation was waiting and watching by the bedside of the illustrious sufferer are yet vivid in our memories. Among the watchers by the bedside, among the mourners at the grave of the President, were the people of the States so lately in rebellion.

And we should thank God that the loyalty and common sense of the whole people rallied and upheld the Government during those months when there was raised a grave and important question of administration for whose solution no precedent existed, and when by combination of unparalleled occurrences but one life intervened between order and technical anarchy.

THE MAJESTY OF LAW.

The ground on which we now stand, over which the flag of the United States floats, not merely in recognition of this day and in respect to these dead, but in token of ownership by the Government, is held to-day by title different from that of one year ago. By the decree of our highest civil tribunal, a title which we had believed to be absolute, because created by law and confirmed by victory and vested in a sovereign incapable of being sued in its own courts, except by its own consent, has been invalidated, and conceding the authority of the decree, the Government has perfected its ownership by purchase.

It would ill become your speaker, may it, would be height of presumption, to raise a decision rendered by so august a tribunal as the Supreme Court of the United States. Nor would he, even were this the fitting place and occasion, question the righteousness of the judgment that this property had been wrongfully exposed for sale; but, waving consideration of the manner in which it came into possession of the Government, it is difficult for the reasoning by which a title which could not lie against the sovereign Nation could lie against the Nation's officers, who, in obedience to its commands, held property for its sole and direct use as the resting place of the dead who fell in the conflict which determined the existence and the sovereignty of the Nation.

I refer to this change in the title simply because it furnishes another evidence of the reign of law in the land so lately torn by gigantic civil strife. That for even a moment the title to Arlington could revert to one who himself was a prisoner of war, and that the Government and its son should have been more than to any other the Confederacy owed its prolongation, was an idea so repugnant to our sense of fitness and justice as to be impossible of toleration; but that the title did so pass, and that there was no outbreak of indignation protest throughout the country, is additional proof of our respect for law and for the rights even of those whom we once thought had forfeited all right to life and property.

Perhaps, however, it was not alone respect for law that allowed the title to this cemetery to revert to its original owner without active opposition, but as well the consciousness of our

people that the passage of title was simply upon paper; that there was no danger that the plough would "turn its furrow" here, and that no writ would run against the occupants of these graves, and that no administration could do this because of any cost, the Nation's right of eminent domain.

We rejoice we are here to-day by no man's sufferance; that the Government holds this property by a title which none can question, and that no dispute can again disturb these dead.

May their rest remain unbroken until the hour cometh when "the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God." May He grant that when that voice sounds, they that sleep in these graves shall hear and live.

A NATION WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

Surely the Union is real, the States are indeed United which can suppress a rebellion the most formidable in history; which, upon the close of that rebellion, can endure without generation thereafter, can endure without shock, other than that of interest and grief, a transfer of administration enforced by assassination; which can peacefully determine a disputed succession to the Chief Magistracy; which can abide the decision of civil tribunals in controversies resulting from the war, even when those decisions are adverse to the sentiment for which men died and that triumphed in that war; which can admit to the national legislature and to active participation in affairs of State, men who but a few years ago were in armed array against the Government; and which, in the eyes of its citizens, rests upon their patriotic obedience to law.

Such is the "Nation" on behalf of which these citizens, resolved that it should not be wrested from them, have nobly fought and died. They need no higher eulogy.

WHY WE DECORATE THE GRAVES OF THE NATION'S DEAD.

The war being over, the new order of things being accepted, peace prevailing throughout the land, why cherish the memories of the terrible strife? Why continue an observance which recalls the scenes of those eventful years? The passions and the bitterness of the war time are, indeed, past, and we are not wont to awaken the bitter memories or to rekindle the angry passions, or over these graves to swear eternal hate to our former enemies, but only to strew flowers—emblems of peace and love—over the resting place of our dead.

We do not recount their deeds that we may exult over their defeated adversaries, but only that we may justly appreciate the devotion to which these graves bear witness.

Israel was bidden to commemorate the great deliverance, not that the Egyptian should be hated, but that the Lord should be remembered. Themselves the heirs of all the ages, our brothers were inspired by the glories of the past to noble emulation, and their deeds shall enhance the heritage of the ages to come.

Justice to the dead and duty to posterity alike demand that we shall transmit the glorious story untarnished and undimmed.

In the hour of its greatest peril these men gave their lives for the life of the Nation; the sacrifice shall not be forgotten because the danger which demanded it was by it averted.

Into the wide chasm which opened through our land, threatening to destroy the State, unless into the yawning depths was cast the choicest treasure of the Nation, there leaped four hundred thousand men—themselves the most precious possession of the Republic. The blood shed close—God grant that it shall never reopen, and that we shall richly deserve to stand again upon its fearful brink if we forget them, our bravest and our best.

Rejoicing that our dead have not died in vain; believing it our duty, we esteem it our privilege to commemorate their sacrifice, and we to-day by these simple ceremonies declare both the righteousness of the cause and the gratitude of the Nation.

Remembrance of the Twenty-first Connecticut.

Comrade F. E. Gallup writes us as follows: The Veteran Association of the Twenty-first regiment Connecticut volunteers held its seventh annual Reunion at Willimantic, Conn., on Wednesday, May 16, the anniversary of the battle of Drury's Bluff. The day was perfect and the morning trains brought large delegations of the veterans of the Twenty-first. At 10:30 the line formed at the depot, and, headed by the "drummer boy," John Bolles, and after L. Warner, marched to old family music to Excelsior Hall, where a business meeting was held, which was opened with prayer by Rev. A. M. Crane. John A. Brown, secretary and treasurer, submitted his report, which was accepted. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, J. B. Baldwin; Vice-Presidents, John L. Hill, D. O. Leonard, A. G. Obustard, R. A. Gray, B. E. Smith and L. N. Arnold; Secretary, Gray, B. E. Smith and L. N. Arnold; Treasurer, Wm. B. Avery; Chaplain, Rev. Thomas G. Brown; Historian, Rev. Captain A. M. Crane; Regimental Post, H. J. Soper. A committee consisting of one from each company was appointed. Three deaths were reported during the past year. Dinner was served promptly at 12 and 1:30 p. m. the hall was well filled, and the exercises opened with prayer by the Rev. H. B. Brown, a son of the venerable chaplain of the regiment. Then came a song by a male quartette. Following this was an address by the Rev. H. L. Hall, to which an eloquent response was made by Captain D. D. Brown, another son of our venerable chaplain. President Baldwin introduced Rev. A. J. Crane, of West Boylston, Mass., a former captain in the regiment, who delivered an interesting address on "Our March from Pleasant Valley and the Battle of Fredericksburg." Comrade H. L. Soper recited an original poem on the battle of Drury's Bluff. The President then introduced Mrs. C. P. Buel, widow of Lieutenant Buel, another son of our venerable chaplain. Captain Brown was called out and expressed his intense gratification at meeting the boys once more. He is eighty-three years old. Brief remarks were also made by several comrades, and at 4:30 the exercises closed, the boys scattered—some to meet again and some to answer the roll-call on high or another year rolls around. There were some 125 veterans present, and the Reunion, taken as a whole, was the best ever held by the regiment.

A New Prisoners of War Society.

Comrade Henry Smith writes us that on May 23d Comrade P. S. Preston visited Camp No. 7, Union Prisoners of War Society, of the State of Michigan, at Lansing, with some fifteen or sixteen members.

Veterans' Reunion at Hinesdale, Pa.

Preparations are being made for a grand Reunion of the veterans of five counties: Wayne, Susquehanna, Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming, at Hinesdale, the county seat of Wayne, July 4th.

Remembrance of the Seventy-ninth Illinois.

The Seventy-ninth Illinois volunteers will hold a Reunion at Arcola, Ill., on the 27th and 28th of August.

GEN. LEE'S RETREAT.

Leisurely Pursuit by the Army of the Potomac.

FRENCH'S DIVISION.

Why It Did Not Participate in the Battle of Gettysburg.

MARYLAND HEIGHTS.

The Confederates Recross the Potomac at Falling Waters.

[By Joseph W. Kirkley.]

The Army of the Potomac, following up the success achieved at Gettysburg, passed through Frederick, Maryland, on the 8th of July, where, on the following day, it was joined by the Sixth Maryland, One Hundred and Thirty-eight and Tenth Pennsylvania, and One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio, organized into a brigade at Maryland Heights, previous to the evacuation, in which it participated, whence it moved via Tenallytown to Frederick. This brigade became the Second, Third, and Fourth Divisions, Third Army Corps, and preserved its organization until the close of the war. After the retreat of Lee's army across the Potomac the Third Army Corps marched to Williamsport, and on the 15th to Sharpsburg, and thence to Antietam.

On the 16th the march was continued to near Sandy Hook, and on the 17th, while other commands were crossing at different points, the Third Corps crossed the Potomac at Harper's Ferry. Moving thence across the Shenandoah the pursuit was continued along the east side of the Blue Ridge, the Sixth passing through Upperville and Piedmont to Manassas Gap, where, on the 24th of July, it came under fire, while lying in reserve, in an action on Wapping Heights, losing one man, severely wounded.

Lee had evidently contemplated a passage of his army through Manassas Gap, but, foiled by the timely arrival of the Third Corps, he retired and pushed on down the Shenandoah Valley, to avoid the disagreeable proximity of Manassas. After counter-marching to Piedmont the corps continued its movement towards the Rappahannock, arriving at Warrenton on the 29th of July. The movement was rapid, the heat intense, the roads scarce, and as a consequence the troops were tired and hungry. The Third Corps remained at Warrenton until August 1st, when it marched to a place near the Rappahannock known as "Fanny Lee's farm," and there established a temporary summer camp.

EVACUATION OF MARYLAND HEIGHTS.

The Maryland brigade reached Frederick City on the afternoon of July 1st. Just outside the city the command bivouacked in a clover field, except the Seventh, which, having had the advance on the march, was detailed for picket duty.

Next day, July 2d, the great battle of the war raged at Gettysburg, within ear-shot of the troops at Frederick, and General French fully appreciated the responsibility of his position. On the morning of that day he issued a ringing order, concluding with the startling announcement that "any officer, no matter how high his rank, or soldier, who fails to do his duty at this moment will be made to suffer death under immediate trial before a drumhead court."

General French followed this up in a way which showed that he meant business. He visited the outposts and camps, found faults with everything, reprimanded everybody, and put under arrest men and officers of all grades. Upon the whole it had a capital effect. At first, everybody felt inclined to get very mad with the commanding general, but, on reflection, prudently turned their wrath upon subordinates. And such a cross, angry, exasperated set of men it would be hard to find as French's command at Frederick during the battle of Gettysburg. Never was a command in high tone or more thoroughly broad for a fight.

At nightfall the Seventh Maryland was relieved on picket by the Eighth Maryland, and the next morning the entire force was paraded through town in column of platoons equalized, field-music playing, on the march to Monocacy Junction. The brigade never appeared to better advantage. They had had precious little of the "pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war," and all enjoyed this opportunity for "showing off"—none more so than those whose homes were in Frederick, or who had friends there. At the corner of Market and Patrick streets the column passed General French in review, and at all points was loudly cheered. The compliments usually paid, as a matter of course, by reviewing officers on the appearance of troops, were on this occasion, highly appreciated as coming from a general who had been supposed to be incapable of acting any other part among his men than that of a martinet.

When General Meade ordered the evacuation of Maryland Heights, he directed General French to march his column rapidly northward and unite with the main army. But upon his arrival at Frederick, General French received the following instructions:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

CAMP NEAR LANTOWN, July 1, 1863. Major-General FRENCH.

Commanding, &c. GENERAL: The major-general commanding incloses for your information the order as to his disposition for an attack from the enemy, which will be understood by consulting the map of Frederick county.

It directs that you will hold Frederick, camping your troops in its immediate vicinity; also, the Monocacy bridges, both rail and turnpike. You will be held in readiness to move from Frederick to a junction with General Schenck, to whom you will communicate your instructions. In the event of our being ordered to withdraw and retire before the enemy, you will be in readiness to throw your command, by rail or march, as may be most practicable and speedy, into the defenses of Washington.

To meet that, for the present, you will hold the line of communication to Frederick, keep it open, and send up from Frederick all stragglers, keeping the town clear and in good order.

I am, General, very respectfully, Your obedient servant, S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Again, on the 2d of July, General Meade dispatched as follows:

MAJOR-GENERAL FRENCH: General Meade directs me to say that the enemy attacked us vigorously yesterday and was repulsed on all sides. The result is apparently renewed to-day and we have retained our position. Should the results of to-day's operations cause the enemy to fall back towards the Potomac, which you would probably learn by scouts and information from Hagerstown, before you would be advised from here, he directs that you will recross Harper's Ferry, and

annoy and harass him in his retreat. It may be possible for you now to annoy and cut his communications with any cavalry or light marching infantry you have. Of this you can judge. If the result of to-day's operations should be our own discomfiture and withdrawal, you are to look to Washington and throw your force there for its protection. You will be prepared for either of these contingencies should they arise.

Communicate a copy of these instructions to the General-in-Chief for his information. Acknowledge.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, Major-General and Chief of Staff.

At Monocacy Junction the brigade guarded the bridges over the Monocacy, and the approaches from Nolan's and other ferries of the Potomac, and kept open the line of communication between Washington and Meade's army. Soon the news of a victory at Gettysburg fell like wildfire. There was, however, no time for a Fourth of July celebration. All was activity and vigilance, constant marching and counter-marching, posting of pickets and calling them in again, and hourly expectation of something important to happen. During the afternoon of the 4th the brigade was counter-marched back to its old bivouac on Rizer's farm, west of Frederick, on the Harper's Ferry road.

At reveille, on the morning of the 6th, when the men paraded for roll call, they described an object swinging from the limb of a tree in an adjoining field. It was soon learned that it was the body of a Confederate spy, caught with the evidences in his boots, and hung by order of General John Buford, who commanded a brigade of Union cavalry, which had crept during the night from Gettysburg. The deceased was easily recognized as a visitor to the camps of the Maryland brigade on Maryland and Bolivar Heights, offering various small articles for sale and getting up ornamental company rolls.

On the afternoon of the 6th of July, General Kenly was ordered to march with the First, Fourth and Eighth regiments and Miner's Indiana battery, to retake and occupy Maryland Heights. Starting immediately, and making a forced march, General Kenly reached Knoxville early next morning. It was here learned that the enemy was in full possession of Harper's Ferry, and engaged in repairing the railroad bridge, which had been partially destroyed by Cole's cavalry the day previous, and that they had been and were still employed in collecting the ammunition and stores which were left on the evacuation of the heights.

FIGHT AT MARYLAND HEIGHTS.

Upon receiving this information General Kenly pushed forward, and when the column reached the mouth of Pleasant Valley, he detached Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, with the First Maryland, instructing him to ascend the Heights by way of the eastern slope, and to carry and hold them.

General Kenly then moved with two companies of the Fourth Maryland, followed by the remainder of the Fourth and Eighth regiments, by the road leading along the canal. As the advance guard neared the bridge they found the road obstructed, and the enemy at the same time opened upon them a sharp fire. The advance immediately dashed forward in gallant style, turned the point of the precipice which abuts on the road, and taking cover, by their rapid firing soon materially lessened that of the enemy. The balance of the command was then brought up the road and placed in position on the western slopes of the mountain. A section of Miner's battery was also placed in position on the point of the heights overlooking Harper's Ferry, and a few well-directed shots soon dispersed a body of Confederate cavalry which made its appearance on Bolivar Heights.

About this time a detachment of troops, with several pieces of light artillery mounted on an iron-plated car, under command of Captain William H. Boyle, of the Purnell Legion, which had been sent up from Baltimore by Major-General Schenck, arrived and assisted in silencing the Confederate sharpshooters, who were annoying the Federal column from the Virginia side of the river.

The heights gained, a picket line was at once established, extending from the river to Solomon's Gap, and before dark several squadrons of the enemy's cavalry came down the road from Sharpsburg and the Shepherdstown ferry; but after remaining a short time, and being apparently surprised at finding the position occupied by Federal troops, they withdrew.

The great importance of this movement may be more fully appreciated on reading the following acknowledgment from General French: HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY CORPS, JANUARY 22, 1864.

Brig-Genl JOHN B. KENLY, General: My sudden and unexpected transfer to the command of the Third Army Corps precluded me from expressing my appreciation of the important services of yourself and the Maryland brigade, under your command, to which you and I are eminently entitled.

The fact that Maryland Heights had been recaptured, after a forced march, surprising the enemy, and compelling him to abandon the bridge-head and the heights, is a part of the history of the Gettysburg campaign of which you and your troops may justly pride.

I am, General, very truly yours, Major-General FRENCH.

When General Kenly started from Frederick the Seventh regiment was on picket, and did not accompany the brigade. As soon as the Seventh was relieved by its namesake the Seventh New York militia, it marched back and rejoined the brigade on Maryland Heights. At an early hour on the 16th of July the brigade left its heights in the care of the Ninth and Tenth Maryland regiments, which had arrived from Baltimore, and moved out through Pleasant Valley, passing Loont Grove and Bolivarville, to a point near Bonshoro, where it arrived at 9 p. m. The march was directly toward the sound of cannon which was heard early in the day. It was necessarily a forced march, and the day becoming excessively hot there was much straggling from sheer exhaustion. Men dragged themselves along until they dropped down in their tracks.

Next day the brigade was assigned to the First Corps and became the Third brigade of its Third division. General John Newton commanded the corps, General Kenly the division, and Colonel Dushane, of the First regiment, the brigade.

FIGHT AT FALLING WATERS.

On the morning (July 12), about noon, the corps moved from Beaver Creek, through Funkstown, which Lee's army had evacuated in the morning, and took position fronting the enemy's line, formed on the south of the town, and extending from Falling Waters on the Potomac, along the Salisbury Ridge, to the Conococheague, six miles west of Hagerstown.

All this day the main portion and the fields were heavy with the tenacious clay of this limestone country, so that the order—"close